

Message Text

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E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS EINV, EMIN, GR
SUBJECT: OPIC ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING PROGRAM -DRESSER INDUSTRIES

REF: A) STATE 094328, B) 77 ATHENS 10086

1. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT THE ASSESSMENT OF DRESSER INDUSTRIES' MYKOBAR MINING ACTIVITIES IN GREECE REQUESTED IN REFTEL A IS CONTAINED IN OUR REPORT OF NOVEMBER 1977 (SEE REFTEL B). TO SUPPLEMENT OUR PREVIOUS ASSESSMENT WE SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING ON THE FOUR ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONS RAISED IN REFTEL A.

2. MYKOBAR MINING CO. IS TAKING ALL NECESSARY STEPS TO RESTRICT DUST EMISSION TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT. AT ITS PROCESSING FACILITIES IT USES DUST COLLECTORS TO TAKE DUST PARTICLES FROM THE AIR. FURTHERMORE, IN RESPONSE TO A RECOMMENDATION MADE BY THE INSPECTOR OF MINES IN 1977, MYKOBAR INSTALLED FACILITIES COSTING \$180,000 INCLUDING AN AIR-TIGHT PREFABRICATED DRY SHED ON MELOS FOR BULK STORAGE OF CRUSHED AND DRIED BENTONITE AND A CLOSED-TOP CONVEYOR BELT WHICH TRANSFERS THE BENTONITE MECHANICALLY FROM THE STORAGE POINT TO THE SHIP. MYKOBAR IS COMPLYING WITH GOG ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS AND REGULATIONS.

3. THERE HAVE BEEN NO DISPUTES WITH THE GOG OR THE LOCAL
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CITIZENRY OVER ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES, AND WE ARE AWARE OF NO RECENT OR PENDING STATUES OR REGULATIONS THAT MIGHT ADVERSELY AFFECT DRESSER'S OPERATIONS.

4. DRESSER INDUSTRIES IS NOT WELL KNOW TO THE GREEK PUBLIC BECAUSE THE COMPANY OPERATES IN GREECE UNDER THE NAME "MYKOBAR MINING CO". THE GENERAL PUBLIC IMAGE OF MYKOBAR

ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES IS GOOD BOTH ON MYKONOS, WHERE
THE FIRM HAS BEEN OPERATING SINCE 1955, AND ON MELOS,
WHERE IT HAS BEEN OPERATING SINCE 1960.

5. DURING THE SUMMER OF 1977, THREE OR FOUR SHORT TERM
GENERAL LABOR STRIKES TOOK PLACE ON MELOS IN THE SEVERAL
MINING AND QUARRYING AREAS OF THE ISLAND WHICH AFFECTED
THE OPERATIONS OF ALL COMPANIES, INCLUDING MYKOBAR (TOTAL OF
15 DAYS OF PRODUCTION TIME WAS LOST). COMPLAINS ABOUT
THE DUST FROM THE MINING OPERATIONS WERE THE OSTENSIBLE CAUSE
OF THE STRIKE. WE ARE TOLD, HOWEVER, THAT THE LABOR
UNIONS HAD USED THE ISSUE TO TEST THEIR COHESION
AND STRENGTH FOR MOUNTING A GENERAL LABOR STRIKE IN
THE FUTURE SHOULD THEIR DEMAND FOR A SINGLE COLLECTIVE
LABOR BARGAINING AGREEMENT ON MELOS NOT BE MET.
DURING THE PAST SEVEN MONTHS, A SOCIAL SECURITY SERVICE
(IKA) MOBILE STATION CONDUCTED HEALTH INSPECTIONS AT
MYKOBAR'S FACILITIES ON MELOS AND MYKONOS. NO CASES OF
SILICOSIS WERE FOUND THUS ONE CAN CONCLUDE THAT
ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS AT MYKOBAR'S MINING OPERATIONS
ARE ABOVE STANDARD.

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